

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

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### EDITORIAL

#### THE LAWFUL AND THE EXPEDIENT

The apostle Paul's writings on the lawful and the expedient in Christian living, embodied in the first epistle to the church at Corinth, should be diligently read by all who desire that their lives may be fruitful, and the churches to which they belong effective, in the work of the Kingdom of Christ.

There seems to be a mistaken idea prevalent among the professed people of God to the effect that very choice and action of the Christian life can be determined by moral law. They cherish the idea that, if they abstain from all that is morally wrong, and carefully practise all that is morally right, they have met every condition necessary to a flourishing experience and a fruitful life. Their attitude concerning matters outside the realm of moral obligation is frequently expressed by such questions as: "What harm is there in this? Where is it forbidden in the Bible? Where in the Word does it state that we should do this, or should not do that?" And if you are not able to quote a scripture portion which bears specifically and directly on the subject in question, they conclude that they have the right to do as they please.

Now it is invariably true that the dear old Book is first, last, and always our accepted standard of faith and conduct, but it is equally true that there are many decisions we have to make in our Christian living which cannot be determined by moral standards and principles. The reason for this lies in the fact that the matter in question is unmoral in its nature and therefore the result involves no moral issue. We are in the realm of the "non-essential" in which we are left to make choices which knowledge and experience teach us can or cannot be to the best interests of our heart experience, and the advantage of the cause we represent. Doubtless because of carelessness or a lack of understanding of the influence of these choices, "many are weak and sickly among you," having little power in their own experiences and less in their influence over the world of ungodly. Whether we can go here or there, do this or that, indulge in this "harmless" amusement, or conform in dress or by some other means to the prevalent standard of fashion, these and a multitude of other questions belong in this realm, and the answers cannot always be discovered in some exact statement of Divine truth or by asking ourselves whether the thing in itself is right or wrong.

What then shall we do concerning these things? Paul says, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient." By this inspired declaration, and the lengthy discussion he engages in to make his thoughts clear to us, he imparts a principle to guide us in these matters which, while regarded by some as unimportant, are vitally influential in regard to our experience and witnessing in the world. What is the substance of Paul's recordings? Just this: When I am confronted with such problems as these, I am guided to my decision by a jealous care of my own spiritual destiny and a supreme love for the cause of Jesus. I do not claim every privilege that appears as my rightful possession, but rather weigh them as to discover what effect they would have on my love for Jesus and the attitude of the sinner toward the church I represent. I do not choose that which is lawful

(the things I may include in the scope of my personal liberty) but rather, that which is expedient, (the things which will be most profitable to me as a Christian, and to the best advantage of the work of the Kingdom.)

To attempt to enumerate "what is right" and "what is wrong" in this sphere would lead to hopeless confusion and frequent disagreement, but we receive from the pen of the inspired apostle the sanest and safest rule of guidance in these matters. He says: "Those things which were gain to me. I counted loss for Christ," therefore, "though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all that I might gain the more."

### GLEANINGS

"As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."—Luke 6:31.

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Love to one's enemies is the essence and evidence of Christian perfection. Man's love becomes, not in degree, but in kind, like God's love, when it pours itself out in benefactions upon the thankless and thankful alike, as He sends sunshine and rain on the evil and the good.

—Daniel Steele.

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Faithful prayer always implies correlative exertion; no man can ask honestly and hopefully to be delivered from temptation, unless he has himself honestly and firmly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it.

—John Ruskin.

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Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly, until he knows that every day is Doomsday.—Emerson.

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Sow a thought, and you reap an Act;  
Sow an act, and you reap a Habit;  
Sow a habit, and you reap a Character;  
Sow a character, and you reap Destiny.

—George Dana Boardman.

### GOD OMNIPRESENT

Amongst the deepest shadows of the night,  
Can there be one who sees my way?  
Yes, God is like a shining light,  
That turns the darkness into day.

When every eye around me sleeps,  
May I not sin without control?  
No, for a constant watch He keeps,  
On every thought of every soul.

If I could find some cave unknown,  
Where human feet had never trod,  
Yet there I could not be alone;  
On every side there would be God.

He smiles in heaven; He frowns in hell;  
He fills the air, the earth, the sea;  
I must within His presence dwell;  
I cannot from His anger flee.

Yet I may flee: He shows me where;  
To Jesus Christ He bids me fly;  
And while I seek for pardon there,  
There's only mercy in His eye.

### HOLINESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

To live the life of holiness is to work at it like the lawyer or doctor or minister does at their professions. They work them. Each wants to make a success. Each means to be successful. A lawyer takes time and practises law that he may be a good lawyer. The physician, the minister likewise. Each takes time, makes great preparation for each case, to be successful. After one is sanctified, he or she takes up the profession of holiness and, all of those who have been kept from backsliding—giving up their profession—and, have gone on with God, have been those who have worked at this wonderful profession. They did not take it up for a few days or weeks or years, but chose it for life and found, to be proficient in this high and holy calling, they had certain routine tasks to perform daily.

Consecration, once made, must be kept intact. "He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back, is not fit for the kingdom of heaven." Obedience—on every point must be done. Faith must be continually exercised and prayer a continuous necessity, else, like a musician, unless the daily routine of so much practice is gone through with, will lose the delicate touch or the perfect rhythm of time. "If ye do these things ye shall never fall" because "according to His divine power, hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, etc." 2 Pet. 1:2-11. God has made such abundant provision for our being kept that we may rest in Him and just expect Him to be "able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24. Rom. 12 I would like to call "Instructions for the daily walk of the Sanctified." From beginning to the end it is packed with real practical teaching and given "for our instruction in righteousness". 2 Tim. 3:16-17, from coming out from the world and being transformed to loving one's enemies and not being overcome of evil. This chapter will bear years of study and each lesson will improve our manner of living, walking and talking as we travel this glorious highway of holiness. 1 John 3:3-4 points us to that glorious hope and every one who expects to have that hope fulfilled will do well to follow the instructions laid down in the Word of God.

Young people, take courage. You have been "called unto Holiness." It is a glorious calling with a marvelous reward at the end; "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away." 1 Pet. 1:4. Praise the Lord.

MRS. H. C. SANDERS

### HARD TO LET GO OF HABIT

When I was a boy I saw a man take hold of a wire and then fall down on the ground. He could not let go. It was a live wire, full of electricity. He knew it, because we had told him, but he thought he could be careful and use his coat to keep it from touching his hands. But in a moment the current caught him and held him in its grip. He was very fortunate to escape alive.

Since then I have seen others who were caught and could not let go. A man came to me one day and asked me to help him stop